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RIGHT OF PEOPLES TO SELF-DETERMINATION

HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATIONS AND REPORTS OF SPECIAL RAPPORTEURS AND REPRESENTATIVES

Letter dated 15 November 1994 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text, in English, of a statement by the Government of Portugal on the prevailing situation in Djakarta and East Timor, issued at Lisbon yesterday (see annex).

I would be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda items 94 and 100 (c).

(Signed) José Tadeu SOARES
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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ANNEX

Statement dated 14 November 1994 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Portugal on the prevailing situation in Djakarta and East Timor

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is following closely and with great concern the latest events in Djakarta, where 41 East Timorese people have been detained while trying to enter the grounds of the American Embassy and 29 more are already inside the compound of that diplomatic mission, as well as the events taking place in East Timor, where demonstrations by civilians have occurred in Dili and several other towns. One East Timorese has already been killed in circumstances yet to be clarified and there is news of a large number of wounded. It is feared that during today's funeral of the deceased new clashes may occur.

The Portuguese authorities are conducting contacts and consultations with other Governments, namely the Government of the United States of America, and international bodies in order to seek assurances of safety and prompt liberation for all detainees and the access to them by humanitarian organizations.

These events show once more the need to find without delay a solution to the question of East Timor that takes into full consideration the legitimate rights of its people. On the other hand, the painful background of violence and repression that has been forced upon his territory should lead the international community to follow with the greatest attention the future developments in this situation and to denounce any new human rights abuses that may occur.